

INSTITUTE FOR
CATHOLIC LIBERAL
EDUCATION

Planning Ahead

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May 6, 2025

OPENING PRAYER

Oh St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us.

Amen.



The Importance of Integration

“The ‘Catholicism’ in a Catholic school cannot simply be added on to an existing curriculum or atmosphere. Precisely because religious faith affects everything, even changing the way we view the cosmos, it cannot be compartmentalized. Revelation subtly alters the way every subject is taught as well as the relationships between them. What is revealed connects them severally and together to our own destiny, to the desire of our hearts for union with infinite truth. At that point, *everything* becomes interesting. There are no ‘boring’ subjects- nothing can be ugly or pointless unless we make it so, turning our backs on the Giver of Being.”

Beauty in the Word, Stratford Caldecott p. 14

It's that time of year...

- May is a good time of year to revisit curriculum goals as a staff.
- Go back to your goals from the beginning of the year.
- Plan a staff meeting specifically to review this year's curriculum and plan ahead for next year.

The goal of the meeting is 3 fold:

1. *Offer time for teachers to reflect while it is fresh in their minds what worked and what didn't with their curriculum this year.*
 2. *Collaborate with teachers as to where they will finish the year and what needs to be addressed at the beginning of next year.*
 3. *Plan out and integrate curriculum across the disciplines.*
- Remind staff about the *why* behind your curriculum updates.

- *Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools*
- **“Catholicism must permeate...the entire curriculum.”**

Does it in YOUR school?



Comparison of the two philosophies

Contemporary Education

- Ordered to material, temporal ends
- Fragmented, industrialized
- Focus on practical skills
- Emphasis on information
- One mile wide, one inch deep
- Lectures+testing = passive learning
- Susceptible to indoctrination

Catholic Liberal Education

- Ordered to eternal happiness
- Integration of subjects, knowledge, faith
- Restores meaning and purpose
- Formation; awakens wonder
- Cultivates habits of deep thinking
- Constant discussion = active learning
- Develops intellectual freedom

Curriculum Mapping

- Start with the overall goals for the year- what disciplines/content did you focus on?
- What went well? Where were the struggles?
- What needs to be added/ removed going into next year?
- Where did integration happen naturally? How can we integrate more going into next year?
- Remember the “Golden Threads” that weave through each discipline.



Curriculum Integration

- When we integrate we are restoring the fragments and offering education as a *whole, not parts*.
- Weaving together the threads of the various disciplines
- Big Bucket items to integrate:
 - Latin
 - Writing
 - History
 - Theology
 - Art
 - Music
- *Art and Music are not after thoughts-- they are pivotal to the renewal and a direct access to BEAUTY*



Curriculum Map Templates

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Classical School Curriculum Map | 8th Grade Humanities

<i>8th Grade Humanities</i>	Trimester One	Trimester Two	Trimester Three
Literature and History Primary Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Frankenstein</i>, Mary Shelley - <i>Tale of Two Cities</i>, Charles Dickens - Excerpts from Luther, St. Francis de Sales, Descartes, Dawson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Death Comes for the Archbishop</i>, Willa Cather - <i>The Oregon Trail</i>, Francis Parkman - <i>The Civil War</i>, Geoffrey Ward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, Erich Remarque - <i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i>, G.K. Chesterton - <i>Pride & Prejudice</i>, Jane Austen
Historical Era *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protestant Reformation - Scientific Revolution - Enlightenment - French Revolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founding & American Revolution - Westward Expansion - Industrial Revolution - The Civil War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rise of Nationalism and 20th Century Economics - WWI - WWII
Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ozymandias</i>, Percy Shelley - <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Book VII Excerpt), John Milton - <i>God's Grandeur</i>, Gerard Manley Hopkins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>O! Pioneers!</i>, Walt Whitman - <i>Work Song</i>, pt. 2: <i>A Vision</i>, Wendell Berry - <i>As Kingfishers Catch Fire</i>, Gerard Manley Hopkins - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Morning at the Window</i>, T.S. Eliot - <i>A Timbered Choir</i>, Wendell Berry - <i>East Coker</i> (from <i>Four Quartets</i>), T.S. Eliot (pt. III - V)
Lost Tools of Writing	Essay 3	Essay 4, Essay 5	Essay 6

* E.H. Gombrich' *A Little History of the World*, along with various excerpts from primary sources will guide our historical study.

Curriculum Map Templates

Subject	1 st Trimester	2 nd Trimester	3 rd Trimester
Theology		-	
Humanities	Literature: History: Writing:	Literature: History: Writing:	Literature: History: Writing:
Science			
Math			
Latin			
Recitation	Poetry:	Poetry:	Poetry:
Special Events			

Planning PD for the Fall

- Use what you have discovered from your curriculum mapping meeting to plan PD for the fall.
- What disciplines will you be focusing on next year and what can you provide to your staff for support?
 - Trainings
 - Reading selections
- Select summer readings for your staff that will ground them in the renewal and what the next step is.



Format for in-service week

~DO focus on the importance of your mission and the critical role the teacher plays in the mission.

~Do NOT try to cram a lot in, give time for reflection, prayer, classroom set-up, practical questions.

~DO begin each day with daily Mass.

~Do NOT go later than 3pm.

~Do offer time for friendship.
(Welcome dinner, happy hours, etc.)

~Begin the week with BIG PICTURE- talk about your mission statement, theme of the year, importance of prayer life. (Include guest speakers or workshops if time allows)

~On these days plan for intellectual formation in some way, leave plenty of time for discussion.

~Move into the practical mid- week. (Handbook, scheduling, policies)

~Reserve Friday afternoon to return to the big picture. End the in-service with the calling/ vocation of the teacher and your school's mission.

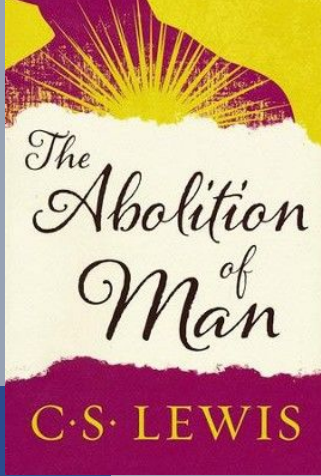
Summer Reading Suggestions for Staff:

Beauty in the Word

Rethinking the Foundations
of Education
Foreword by Anthony Esolen



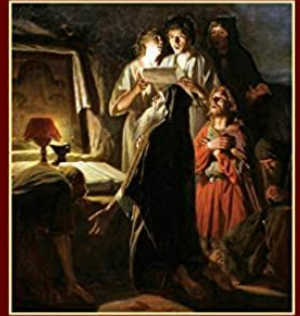
Stratford Caldecott



C·S· LEWIS

Josef Pieper
*Only the
Lover Sings:*
Art and Contemplation

Ignatius



*From Christendom
to Apostolic Mission*

Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age

UNIVERSITY OF MARY

You Can't
Teach Until
Everyone
Is
Listening

6 Simple Steps
to Preventing
Disorder, Disruption,
and General Mayhem

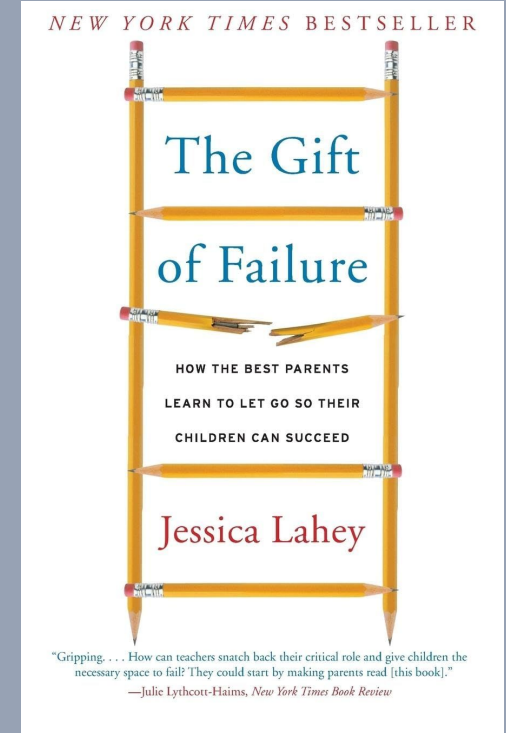
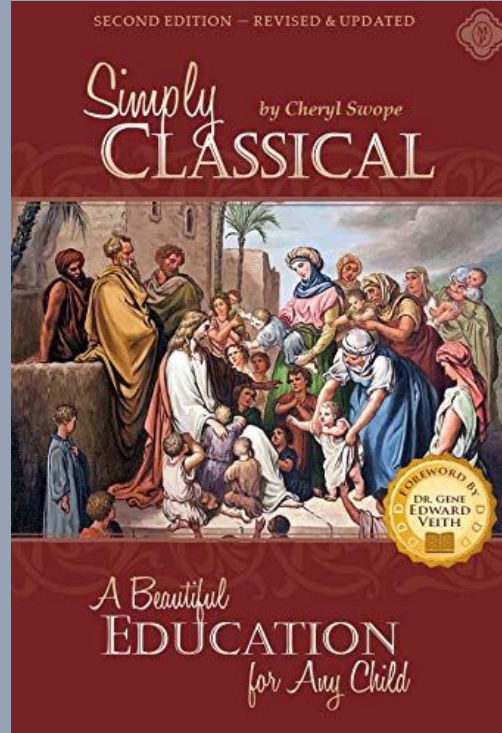
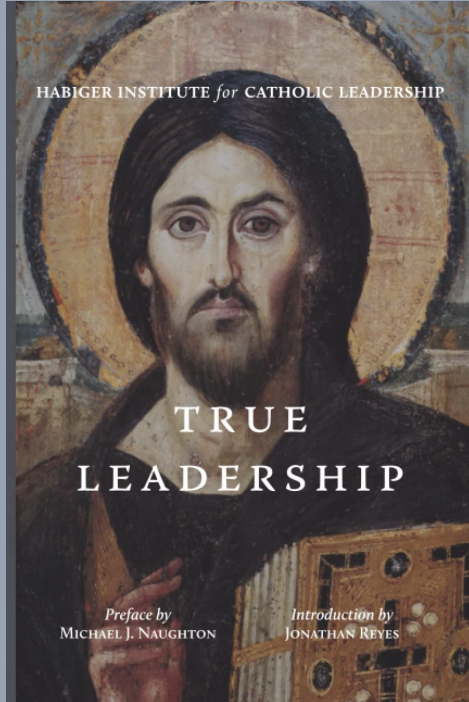
Marilyn L. Page Foreword by
Bruce A. Marlowe

**TRIED
& TRUE**

A Primer on Sound Pedagogy

Daniel B. Coupland

Reading Suggestions for leadership team:



Going forward...

1. Plan a faculty meeting this month for curriculum mapping.
2. Have teachers fill out curriculum template that you can use across the grade levels to track narrative, progression, and integration.
3. Decide what content you will be focusing on in the fall.
4. Begin planning your in-service and PD for next year.
5. Stay in touch with this cohort! Great emails have been exchanged and great questions asked of past colleagues who have been through SLA.